



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PSC TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED RULES REGARDING TREE-TRIMMING AND INSPECTION STANDARDS

JEFFERSON CITY---The Missouri Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing on **August 15, 2007**, to receive additional comment and/or testimony on two proposed rules intended to provide increased reliability of electric service in Missouri. The hearing on proposed rules regarding tree-trimming and electric infrastructure inspections is scheduled to start at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's offices in the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.

Any person(s) with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the Public Service Commission at least 10 days prior to the hearing at one of the following numbers: Consumer Services Hotline 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or Relay Missouri at 711.

Anyone may file comments in support of or in opposition to the proposed rules. They have until **August 15, 2007**, to do so. Comments should be sent to the Secretary of the Missouri Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 360, Jefferson city, Missouri 65102. Please include a reference to the case number (EX-2007-0214). Comments may also be submitted using the Commission's electronic filing and information system at <http://www.psc.mo.gov/efis.asp>

The proposed infrastructure rules include:

- ✓ Specific requirements for frequency of inspections of electric utility infrastructure such as a requirement that poles over 15 years of age be inspected no less frequently than every 10 years;
- ✓ Requirements that the electric companies file specific compliance plans for inspections and record-keeping by January 2008; and
- ✓ Provisions for assessing penalties for failure to comply with rule requirements.

The proposed tree-trimming rules include:

- ✓ Specific requirements for clearances between electric wires and vegetation including visual inspection at least once every two years of all energized conductors to determine whether vegetation management is needed;
- ✓ Requirements that the electric companies develop vegetation management standards, guidelines and procedures consistent with the proposed rule and submit those documents to the PSC by January 2008; and
- ✓ Provisions for assessing penalties for failure to comply with rule requirements.

A decision on permanent rules is expected in late November.

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Case No. EX-2007-0214